

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 PC-01 SY-05 SCS-06

CA-01 OPR-02 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 /131 W

-----074945 220327Z /62/11

O 180955Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9774

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1538

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCRD MACDILL AFB FL/RCJ2 IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 KINSHASA 4943

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C O R R E C T E D C T O P (ADDING E.O., TAGS AND SUBJECT LINES)

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/AF

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA ATTACK - SITREP 4 (MAY 18, 1978)

1. STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

A. THE CIS EVACUATION, WHICH HAD BEEN REPORTED AS UNDERWAY IN SITREP3, HAS NOW BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED. THE REMAINING 48 CIS EMPLOYEES AT KOLWEZI BASE CAMP ALONG WITH THE TEN AT MUSONOIE ARE NOW SAFELY IN KANANGA. IN ADDITION, AT LEAST TWO OF THE FIVE CIS PERSONNEL REPORTED SIN SITREP HAS BEHIND HOSTILE LINES HAVE ALSO BEEN EVACUATED. THIS LEAVES A MAXIMUM OF 3 CIS AMERICANS IN KOLWEZI.

B. THERE REMAINS ONE AMERICAN CITIZEN WITH GECAMINES AT KOLWEZI (DUE TO NAME CONFUSION, THE TWO GECAMINES ADULTS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TURNED OUT TO BE THE SAME PERSON). THE NUMBER OF METHODIST MISSIONARIES (6) AS WELL AS THE ONE TOURIST PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN KOLWEZI REMAINS THE SAME.

C. MORE RECENT INFORMATION PLACES TWO OF THE FOUR CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES REPORTED TO BE IN KASAJI ACTUALLY AT KOLWEZI. THE TWO CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES AT KASAJI HAVE REPORTED THAT THEY AS WELL AS ALL OTHER MISSIONARIES THERE HAVE BEEN ORDERED BY FAZ TO MOVE TO SANDOA.

D. PRESENT TOTALS IN SOUTHWEST SHABA ARE: 13 AMERICANS IN KOLWEZI AND 2 ENROUTE FROM KASAJI TO SANDOA FOR A TOTAL OF 15.

2. MILITARY SITUATION:

THE GOZ ANNOUNCED THAT ITS FORCES RETOOK THE KOLWEZI
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AIRPORT EVENING MAY 17. FAZ SOURCES ALSO REPORT HEAVY FIGHTING IN VICINITY OF THE SHABA SECTOR COMMAND POST. THE FNLC APPEARS TO HAVE OPENED A SECOND FRONT IN WESTERN SHABA.

3. TROOP DEPLOYMENT

A. HOSTILE FORCES

FNLC TROOPS REPORTEDLY CAPTURED IN TOWN OF MUTSHATSHA 1039S/2427E) ON MAY 16. FAZ ASSUMES THAT THE NEXT FNLC TARGET IN WESTERN SHABA WILL BE KASAJI (1022S/2327E).

B. ZAIRIAN FORCES

FAZ REPORTED MORNING OF MAY 17 THAT MAJOR MAYELE, THE FAZ OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE FIVE COMPANIES MOVING TOWARD KOLWEZI FROM LUBUMBASHI, HAD MOVED HIS ENTIRE FORCE ACROSS THE BRIDGE OVER THE LUALABA RIVA, APPROXIMATELY 25 KMS EAST OF KOLWEZI, AND HAD ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH THE FAZ PARACOMMANDO ELEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN DROPPED IN THE VICINITY OF THE SHABA REGION COMMAND POST. A LATER REPORT INDICATED THAT AT LEAST TWO OF MAYELE'S COMPANIES INSTEAD REMAINED AT THE BRIDGE TO SECURE IT. THAT EVENING FAZ HEADQUARTERS KINSHASA RECEIVED THE NEWS THAT FAZ UNITS HAD SUCCEEDED IN RETAKING THE KOLWEZI AIR FIELD.

FAZ ALSO REPORTED A SERIES OF GROUND AND MORTAR ATTACKS

ON THE SHABA REGION COMMAND POST BEGINNING AT 1100 HOURS
MAY 17. RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST AND THEN REESTABLISHED SEVERAL
TIMES IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY. LATE EVENING OF MAY 17
EMBASSY WAS NOTIFIED THAT RADIO CONTACT HAD AGAIN BEEN
REESTABLISHED AT 1830 AND THAT FAZ RETAINED CONTROL OF THE
COMMAND POST.

THE GOZ ANNOUNCED MAY 17 THAT MAJOR GENERAL SINGA,
WHO HAD PROVED HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN OVERALL COMMANDS OF
FAZ FORCES IN SHABA DURING THE "80 DAY WAR" LAST YEAR,
HAS BEEN NAMED MILITARY COMMANDANT FOR SHABA WITH FULL
CIVIL AS WELL AS MILITARY POWERS.

CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI REPORTS THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF
CONFUSED AND DISORGANIZED FAZ SOLDIERS ARE IN THE TOWN OF
FUNGURUME (1037S/2618E). ONE ARMORED CAR WAS ACCIDENTLY
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DRIVEN INTO THE RIVER, DROWNING ALL ABOARD. BRIGADIER
GENERAL TSHIKEVA, COMMANDER OF THE 14TH BRIGADE WHO HAD
BEEN MISSING SINCE MORNING OF MAY 15, TURNED UP IN
FUNGURUME LEADING A FAZ PLATOON MAY 17.

CATHOLIC MISSIONARY RADIO NETWORK REPORTS
ALL IS CALM IN DILOLO-POST (1030S/2228E), MPALA (1037S/2510E),
KAKAKUMBA (0940S/2351E) AND KANZENZE (1032S/2513E).

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O 180955Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9775
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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCRD MACDILL AFB FL/RCJ2 IMMEDIATE

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4. INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION.

A) WE HAVE NOT OBSERVED ANY CHANGES FROM THE GENERAL WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE WHICH HAS PREVAILED AMONG THE POPULATION OF KINSHASA SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SHABA ATTACK. SINCE MANY ZAIRIANS RECALL HOW

THE PRESIDENT PULLED A RABBIT OUT OF THE HAT LAST TIME, THEY SHOW NO INCLINATION TO DO ANYTHING OVERT TO SUPPORT THE REBEL CAUSE. ON THE OTHER HAND, GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO PORTRAY THE INVADERS AS "MERCENARIES" "LUNDA TRIBALISTS", "PAWNS OF SOVIET/CUBAN SOCIAL IMPERIALISM," SEEM LARGELY TO HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS. MOST INHABITANTS OF KINSHASA HAVE SO FAR ASSUMED THE ROLE OF SPECTATORS IN A FASCINATING DRAMA RATHER THAN AS PARTICIPANTS IN IT.

B) ON MAY 16, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A MASS RALLY TO SHOW POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT; THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 17 WAS DECLARED A HALF HOLIDAY FOR THAT PURPOSE. ONE AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN REPORTED THAT SOME OF HIS ZAIRIAN EMPLOYEES FOR THE FIRST TIME WERE OPENLY GRUMBLING ABOUT HAVING TO PARTICIPATE IN A PARADE. ONE AMERICAN OBSERVER WHO WATCHED SIMILAR RALLIES DURING LAST YEAR'S SHABA CRISIS

REPORT THAT TODAY'S PARADE WAS LACKING IN ENTHUSIASM. THE CROWD WHICH ASSEMBLED AT THE STADIUM WAS ONLY MODERATE IN SIZE AND LIKEWISE LACKED ENTHUSIASM. PART OF THE EXPLANATION IS UNDOUBTEDLY TO BE FOUND IN THE SHORT TIME ALLOWED FOR PREPARATIONS. HOWEVER, SOME EMBASSY LOCAL

EMPLOYEES REPORT THAT POLICE WERE ISSUING ATTENDANCE CARDS TO HOUSEHOLDS IN KINSHASA THE EVENING OF MAY 16. ZAIRIANS WERE TOLD THAT THESE

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ATTENDANCE CARDS WOULD BE COLLECTED AT NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THOSE WHO ATTENDED AND THOSE WHO WERE ABSENT FROM THE MARCH OF SUPPORT AND RALLY.

C) ON MAY 16, ZAIRE'S SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY, THE MPR, DECLARED A "GENERAL MOBILIZATION" OF THE POPULATION, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE MPR ISSUED A WARNING AGAINST ANY "WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE, INSIDIOUS SABOTAGE OR PASSIVE COMPLICITY WITH THE AGGRESSORS."

D) ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL MEDIA, PLEDGES OF SUPPORT ARE FLOWING IN TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU FROM SUCH NOTABLES AS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (PARLIAMENT) DEPUTIES, THE REGIONAL GOVERNORS, AND THE MAYOR OF KINSHASA.

E) THE KINSHASA POPULATION HAS NOT YET HEARD FROM THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY. A SPEECH PROMISED SUNDAY FOR EITHER MONDAY OR TUESDAY OF THIS WEEK HAS YET TO MATERIALIZE. THE MEDIA IS NO LONGER MENTIONING THIS SPEECH.

F) THE ARMY SWEEP OF PARTS OF THE CITY, NOTED IN SITREP 2, DID NOT BEGIN ON SCHEDULE. THE FIRST OF THOSE SWEEPS WILL NOW PROBABLY TAKE PLACE MAY 18 BETWEEN 0300 AND 0400. UNLIKE LAST YEAR'S SHABA WAR, SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO GUARD KINSHASA'S MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES. ONE AMERICAN EXECUTIVE REPORTS BEING PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT THE CONDUCT OF THE TROOPS SENT TO GUARD HIS PLANT.

G) RUMORS CONTINUE TO FLY IN KINSHASA ATTRIBUTING MILITARY PROWESS TO THE KATANGAN FORCES.

H. THE LUBUMBASHI SITUATION IS GROWING POTENTIALLY UNSTABLE. A MARCH OF SUPPORT FOR THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT, CALLED BY REGIONAL GOVERNOR EFAMBE FOR MAY 17 WAS CANCELLED. THERE IS GROWING CONVICTION IN LUBUMBASHI THAT THE ONLY RESOLUTION TO THE KOLWEZI OCCUPATION WILL BE PROMPT MILITARY ACTION BY ONE OF THE WESTERN POWERS. THIS IS BASED ON THE GENERAL BELIEF THAT THE ZAIRIAN

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MILITARY FORCES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETAKE KOLWEZI, DESPITE SERIOUS EFFORTS WHICH SEEM TO BE PRESENTLY UNDERWAY. IF FAZ IS REPULSED, FEW PEOPLE EXPECT FAZ TO BE ABLE TO LAUNCH A SECOND MAJOR ATTACK. MOREOVER, ALREADY SERIOUS MORALE PROBLEMS ARE LIKELY TO GROW, LEADING TO INCREASED DESERTIONS OR POSSIBLY MUTINY, ENDANGERING POPULATION OF ALL OTHER COMMUNITIES IN SHABA. TOP OFFICIALS IN SHABA ARE CLEARLY MUCH MORE CONCERNED THIS YEAR ABOUT SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION THAN AT ANY TIME DURING 1977 FIGHTING.

ON ANOTHER LEVEL, THE REGIONAL GOVERNOR HAS WRITTEN A REPORT WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT DETAILING THE PRO-GOVERNMENT SYMPATHY HE FOUND IN DILOLO, SANDOA AND KAPANGA AREAS. (EFAMBE HAD BEEN TRAVELING IN THAT WESTERN SHABA AREA WHEN THE NEW WAR BROKE OUT.) CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI SUGGESTS THAT IF THE PRESIDENT TAKES THIS REPORT SERIOUSLY HE MAY CEASE THE PUBLIC CENSURE OF THE LUNDA PEOPLE.

I. CONTACT WITH THE EXPATRIATES IN KOLWEZI HAS NOT BEEN BROKEN. THE BELGIAN EMBASSY REPORTS THAT GECAMINES REPRESENTATIVE RENARD AND HIS DEPUTY WERE ARRESTED BY THE INVADERS AND "BRUTALIZED." THE LAST COUNT OF EUROPEANS KILLED IN KOLWEZI STANDS AT TEN. THE LACK OF UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION MEANS THAT THIS FIGURE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED RELIABLE.

5. PRESS GUIDANCE.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE AMERICAN CITIZENS REPORTED TO BE IN KOLWEZI?

ANSWER: WE HAVE LEARNED THAT ON MAY 17TH MORRISON-KNUDSEN ORDERED THE WITHDRAWAL OF ITS EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS FROM THE KOLWEZI AREA. MORRISON-KNUDSEN'S LOCAL FIRM CIS (CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-SHABA) REMOVED ITS EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS FROM THE COMPANY
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WORK CAMP 8 KM NORTH OF KOLWEZI BY COMPANY HELICOPTER AND TRUCK TO THE CIS CAMP AT MUSONOIE, 80 KM NORTHWEST OF KOLWEZI. THE EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS WERE THEN FLOWN, BY COMPANY AIRCRAFT TO THE CITY OF KANANGA (APPROXIMATELY 350 MILES NORTHWEST OF THE MUSONOIE CAMP). THE PROGRAM PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

OUR BEST PRESENT INFORMATION IS THAT THERE ARE 13 AMERICANS REMAINING IN KOLWEZI CITY. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES THREE CIS EMPLOYEES WHO WERE UNABLE TO RETURN TO CAMP TO ACCOMPANY THE CIS PARTY TO KANANGA. DUE TO THE PRESENT DIFFICULTY IN GETTING NEWS FROM KOLWEZI WE DO NOT HAVE CURRENT INFORMATION AS TO THE WELFARE AND SPECIFIC WHEREABOUTS OF THESE 13 REMAINING AMERICANS.

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6. DOMESTIC NEWS SUMMARY AS OF 1300, WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 1978

A. DOMESTIC REPORTING LATE TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 16, CONTINUED TO COVER THE PARADROP INTO KOLWEZI AND THE LONDON MEETING BETWEEN ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND ZAIRIAN ROVING AMBASSADOR LENGEMA DULIA. WEDNESDAY BROADCASTS ADDED ACCOUNTS FO MASS MARCHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN SUPPORT OF MOBUTU AND A REPORT THAT "AROUND A HUNDRED FOREIGNERS, NOTABLY AMERICAN, BELGIAN, FRENCH AND BRITISH," HAVE BEEN LOCKED UP AND HELD HOSTAGE BY THE ATTACKERS IN KOLWEZI. THIS WAS ALSO THE FIRST TIME THE ZAIRIAN POPULATION WAS TOLD THAT EUROPEANS HAD BEEN KILLED: THREE BELGIANS AND ONE ITALIAN. THEY WERE IDENTIFIED AS GECAMINES EMPLOYEES, TWO OF WHOM HAD BEEN TRYING TO REPAIR THE CITY'S WATER SUPPLY.

B. THE FRENCH-LANGUAGE BROADCASTING INSINUATES THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF THREE OF ITS CITIZENS BECAUSE THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN LENIENT WITH PLOTTERS AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR BELGIAN CONCERNS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

C. KOKONGO AND LINGALA LANGUAGE BROADCASTS REPORT KILLINGS OF INNOCENT BYSTANDERS AND THE LOOTING OF SHOPS AND BANKS IN KOLWEZI BY THE INVADING FORCES, APPARENTLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE REBELS APPEAR AS INHUMAN AS POSSIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME, THESE BROADCASTS ADVISE RADIO LISTENERS THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO PANIC ABOUT, THAT ZAIRE WILL WIN BECAUSE IT ALWAYS HAS WON, BUT THAT EVERYONE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT BECAUSE WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IN SHABA CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE. THESE BROADCASTS ALSO REPORT THE HOLDING OF FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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HOSTAGES IN KOLWEZI. REPORTING IN THE WRITTEN MEDIA PARALLELS THAT OF THE RADIO, BUT ALSO INCLUDES AN ACCOUNT OF AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU IN LE MONDE. THIS SAME EDITION OF THE NEWSPAPER "ELIMA" (WEDNESDAY MORNING) ALSO CARRIES AN EDITORIAL WHICH COMMENTS WITH GREAT SARCASM ON THE PROFESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY MADE BY THE SOVIET CHARGE' D'AFFAIRES AT THE TIME OF HIS VISIT TO MOBUTU'S RESIDENCE -- THE VERY DAY THE INVADERS ATTACKED KOLWEZI.

KINSHASA 1300 RADIO NEW BROADCAST REPEATED EARLIER WAR REPORTING WITH THE ADDITIONAL NEWS THAT LT. GENERAL SINGA BOYENGHE HAS BEEN NAMED COMMANDER IN PLACE OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER AND REPORTED AN AUDIENCE BETWEEN PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR. THE RADIO ALSO CARRIED REPORTS OF MASS MARCHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY SUPPORTING MOBUTU AND SAID THAT ALL FOUR EUROPEANS REPORTED KILLED IN KOLWEZI WERE GECAMINES EMPLOYEES, TWO OF THEM WERE TRYING TO REPAIR CITY'S WATER SUPPLY. WRITTEN PRESS COVERAGE

HAS INCLUDED NOTHING NEW SINCE OUR EARLIER REPORTS.

7. DIPLOMATIC ACITIVITY:

A. ACCORDING TO FBIS REPORTS, THE CONGO HAS NAMED LT. COLONEL EBAKA (WHO MET WITH MOBUTU ON MAY 16) AND INTERIOR MINISTER COMMANDER KATALI TO ACT AS MEDIATORS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA IN THE CURRENT SITUATION.

B. U.S. CHARGE MET WITH ZAMBIAN UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ZIMBA MAY 17 (LUSAKA 1761 NOTAL).

C. BONN 9007 (NOTAL) REPORTED FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA DI LUTETE'S MAY 16 MEETING WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.

8. PETROLEUM SITUATION: THE SITUATION IS UNCHAGED FROM THAT REPORTED IN SITREP 3. FAZ STILL HAS NOT ISSUED DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LOCAL POL DISTRIBUTORS SPECIFYING NEEDED SUPPLIES OR WHERE CONFIDENTIAL

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